

**West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission (SAPC)
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2014**

Attendees: Amal Ali, Mary Andrews, Jeff Bersin, Diedra Dietter, Helen Drohan, Kimberlee Henry, Jamahl Hines, Grace Johnson, Dan Jordan, Joe Kalache, Jean Schensul, Stephen Schensul, Marisa Tamayo, Pat Tyler

Welcome / Introductions / Approve Minutes / Early Departures

Chairperson Jeff Bersin welcomed everyone and introductions were made. The June minutes were approved. Pat Tyler shared information on the West Hartford Teen Center re-opening for the school year, as well as an upcoming parent panel related to children's emotions and wellness. In addition, there is a suicide prevention speaker, Kevin Hines, who will be speaking at an event on September 23rd at West Hartford Town Hall. Jeff Bersin highlighted that some of this year's SAPC meetings will be held on dates other than the second Thursday of the month due to holidays, etc. Please refer to the master schedule that has been emailed to members. Brochures related to focusing on the household for substance abuse prevention were distributed.

Last Year's Accomplishments / This Year's Opportunities – Jeff Bersin

Jeff Bersin highlighted last year's SAPC accomplishments including development of the strategic plan, joint projects with ICR, Tune in to Life, and Every Family newsletter articles. Dan Jordan reported that the parent survey was distributed at Celebrate West Hartford in June and fifty-three parents responded. Five to six hundred visitors (mostly youth) came to the Lead by Example booth and money was raised for LBE.

Making the Job Easier for School Staff – Middle School Community of Concern

It was shared that a Bristow SAPC representative is needed. Pat Tyler agreed to contact Steve Cook, Bristow Principal, to request a representative. Marisa Tamayo shared that she brought the Community of Concern idea to her principal, Joy Wright, and there has been some PTO activity. Jamahl Hines expressed interested in leading a Safe Driving Initiative that would focus on fatigue, driving under the influence, and texting and could be a collaborative effort among Community of Concern, Hall, Conard, and Lead by Example. Diedre Dietter shared that a former Hall teacher (Dan McCoursey), who is now at Conard, did a similar initiative in the past. There was discussion about a mock crash scene and Life Star simulation. Jamahl agreed to check with a New York contact for more information.

Household Initiative – Next Steps

A draft of the article titled "Is Your Home a Location for Dealing Drugs" written by Jean and Steve Schensul was shared with the group for review and was well received. Helen Drohan shared that Take Back Day is scheduled for September 27, 2014 from 10-2 at West Hartford Town Hall. There was discussion about putting up sandwich boards at Hall and Conard as well as doing email blasts through the schools and town list-serve to advertise the event. Pat Tyler agreed to ask Police Chief Tracey Gove how the West Hartford Police Department currently disposes of medications. Diedre Dietter suggested the Commission explore the process for medication disposals via pharmacies. Dan Jordan shared that the recent ICR parent survey has received 400 responses to date and agreed to forward the results to Steve Schensul for inclusion in the article. It was agreed to tie-in the article with Take Back Day. Steve and Dan

agreed to finalize the article tomorrow and Dan Jordan agreed to coordinate the creation of a flyer to be handed out at the Take Back event that shares information regarding becoming a SAPC member. Joe Kalache agreed to contact Helen Rubino-Turco regarding a West Hartford News contact person. Helen Drohan agreed to forward information to Joe Kalache regarding Take Back Day. It was agreed that the article written by Jean Schensul and Steve Schensul would come from the Substance Abuse Prevention Commission rather than from Steve and Jean as individuals. Steve suggested that the article could be the beginning of a series of articles published in the West Hartford News and/or other publications.

Dan Jordan brought up the issue of how to best distribute parent survey results to the community. He agreed to look into distributing the survey to middle school parents as well which could involve adjusting the questions a bit. The next youth survey will be conducted in fall 2015.

Lead by Example Presentation – Amal Ali

Amal Ali provided a LBE update. The Institute for Community Research hired 5 teens as interns over the summer – 3 from Conard and 2 from Hall. The teens went to West Hartford Center and conducted interviews, shared LBE messages, and took photos. Their role this year will be to serve as leaders within the LBE group. There are currently weekly meetings being held at schools – 1 has taken place at Conard and 2 at Hall – with a great turnout. Five teens presented at the National Prevention Network conference and were well received. ICR will need to renew their contract with the state this year. The grant process will be competitive and ICR will need SAPC support.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Tyler

October 6, 2014

